

THE

Carolina Farmer

IN THIS ISSUE:



Feed Crop Production and
Livestock Inventory
of 1948

Unpredictable Sweet
Puzzles Breeders

Enough For All

Price Support Program
Defended



VOLUME III - NUMBER 12

DECEMBER - 1948



Sing a song of Christmas Seals!

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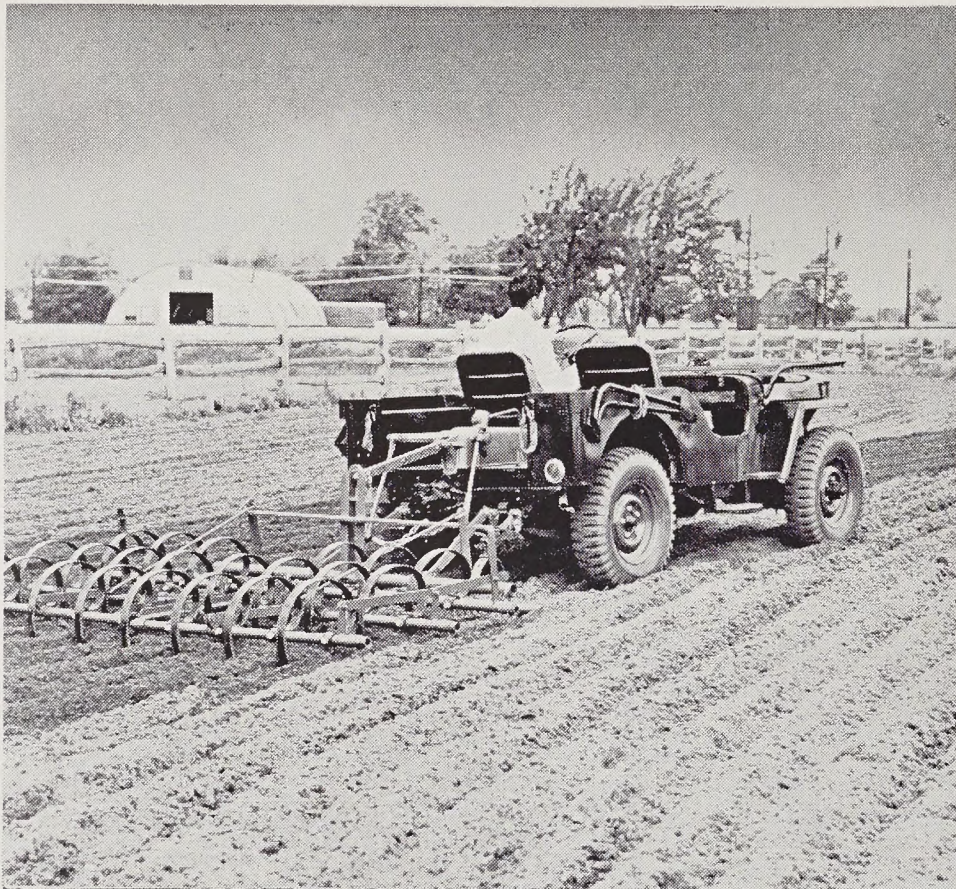
It began in 1907, this idea of buying Christmas Seals to overcome tuberculosis . . . and each Christmas since, the crescendo has swelled. Last year, it reached a mighty chorus of more than 15,000,000 American families.

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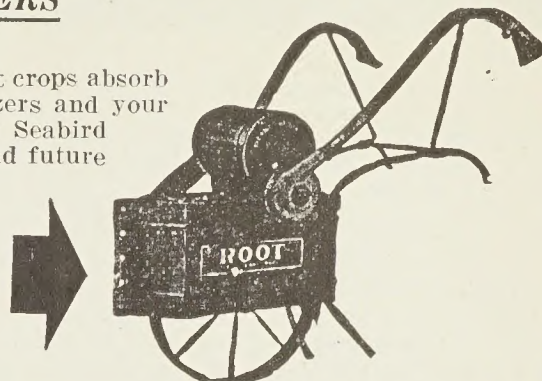
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Contributing Editors



M. B. Bethel, M. D.
Miss York Kiker
Thelma G. Flanagan
Robert S. Curtis
J. E. Nicholson

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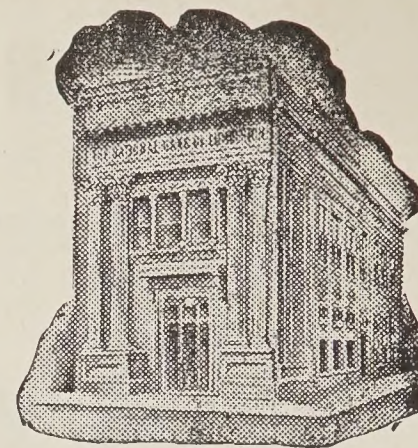
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OUR FRONT COVER

The enduring quality of any civilization is reflected in the attitude of the people toward public health. If our nation is to endure it must make a more concerted effort to defeat our common enemy—Tuberculosis. Before you forget it—send in your contribution today.

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Reports from . . .

Our Nation's Capital

By J. E. JONES

Money is no object in the new-New Deal. Mr. Truman has said over and over again that the Columbia River Basin must have more power, irrigation and flood control. He goes to bat for the public power and Seaway on the St. Lawrence River—a very worthy project that the writer of this News Letter helped to initiate when he published a county seat weekly on Lake Superior. So, having been interested in this project for more than half a lifetime, we are still enthusiastic for that great movement which has been ably championed by Senator Wiley of Wisconsin in recent years.

The Truman idea is that billions of dollars must be expended on public projects and he will likely recommend appropriations for \$120,000,000,000 in his first public message to Congress. He will ask for increased flood control and power development on the Missouri River and Mississippi Basins. Herbert Hoover was a champion of those measures when he was a member of President Coolidge's Cabinet. The President has promised extensive public works for the Central Valley which includes a series of dams in California. The Colorado River development, which includes the Hoover and Parker dams and the new Davis dam will control the Colorado River from the Southern Nevada to the Mexican border. Arkansas and Red Rivers are ticketed for flood control, water storage, and water-sheds.

It would take a book to list all the public reforms and improvements that the President will champion. Tighter rent controls are a strong prospect, and the greedy landlords will "lose" and tenants will "gain."

And now—a few days after President Truman's return to Washington—there is no need to call in "master minds" from the radio stations, or tipsters, or pollsters and others to tell you that even though Mr. Truman has been President for quite a long time, he has just recently reached the heights of glory. In fact, the whole country is wishing him luck. We're pretty decent folks, after all.

The Wise Men Search for Peace

There is a search for peace in this world of ours today; a search which the wise men of all nations are dili-

gently following, hoping against hope that the forces of misunderstanding, of hatred, of greed, shall not conquer.

It is so much like the search for peace some two thousand years ago; a story that we can well listen to again as it will be dramatized on the air on Sunday, December 26, in that outstanding public service radio program, "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

On that Sunday evening, at 6:30 p.m., E.S.T., the American Broadcasting Company network will present a dramatization of "Star of Peace," the story of the three Wise Men searching for the Prince of Peace; going from one section to another, following the star, meeting obstacles, overcoming situations that arose to sway them from their journey.

Even then it was not an easy road. Peace was never easy; there have always been people who would rather have greed, hatred, struggle. But those who want peace, those who search for peace, those who are willing to fight for peace, will find it, even as the three Wise Men of old found the Prince of Peace.

Perhaps our peacemakers today, and every one of us, can learn a most invaluable lesson from this story once again. Listen to it on December 26, and let its message seep into your soul.

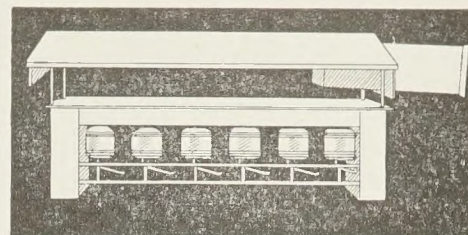
Where Do You Hide Your Gold?

An official report from the Government says that most of the world's gold is finding its way to this country. But your Washington correspondent begs leave to report that he hasn't seen a gold piece in the National Capital since the beginning of World War II. You'll remember that there is a hole in the ground in Kentucky where "they" buried the yellow metal in obedience to the orders of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

What, No Labor Laws?

It seems unreasonable that trade unions like the AFL and the CIO should ask for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, while a crippling strike on the high seas has tied up shipping and put the Merchant Marine out of business. One report is that an effort will be made by the new Administration to scuttle the Taft-Hartley Act

(Continued on Page 14)



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Tobacco Curer

*with Patented
AIR-CONDITIONING
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Modern Tobacco Curers are incomplete without Air-Conditioning—and the famous Florence-Mayo is the only open flame curer that gives you this patented feature. In use in well over 20,000 barns throughout the Bright Leaf Belt—more and more farmers are replacing curing equipment with Florence-Mayos.

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Feed Crop Production and Livestock Inventory of 1948

ASIDE from the unusually wet spring and a brief dry period during June and July, fairly good growing seasons were experienced in most areas of North Carolina during 1948. The very wet weather conditions which prevailed during the Fall of 1947 and through the spring of this year seriously hampered the seeding of small grain crops. Consequently, both the acreage and production of small grains are considerably below last year. The dry weather period that came in early summer retarded the growth of many crops, particularly corn and tobacco; however, the favorable conditions that followed gave promise to above average production of most crops.

As of October 1, it seemed certain that a record corn crop in the State would materialize. Generally, the crop was in good condition over the entire State. The best development during the year occurred in the mountain counties. In the Coastal Plain and Piedmont the crop was generally good except in some localized areas where the crop never fully recovered from dry weather in early summer. The October condition of the crop indicated a production of 78.5 million bushels for an average yield of 34 bushels per acre. Last year's corn production was slightly over 65 million bushels, an average yield of 30.5 bushels per acre. The increased emphasis on hybrid seed and better cultural practices have encouraged growers to pay more attention to their corn crops, especially in areas where it is steadily increasing as a cash crop. Approximately one-fourth of the 1948 crop was planted with hybrid seed.

Total small grain production in 1948 was less than three-fourths the size of production in 1947. Combined production of wheat, oats, barley and rye was estimated at about 15.6 million bushels on October 1, comparing with a production of over 21 million bushels during the previous year.

Based on October 1 reports, the 1948 soybean production was expected to be almost 3.9 million bushels, slightly less than the 1947 production; however, considerably above the 10-year average production of slightly over 2.3 million bushels. Good yields were expected in major producing areas, and an average of 14.0 bushels per acre for the entire State. This yield is 1 bushel below 1947; however, it is 2.5 bushels above the 10-year average.

For the most part, farmers had a favorable year for producing hays. The first three weeks of September were ideal for haying. Growers took full advantage of the good weather and practically all hay harvested up through this period, except peanut and some soybean, had been harvested without heavy losses. The growing season enabled farmers to get a maximum number of cuttings of alfalfa. This crop, which is increasingly becoming more popular, made yields well beyond earlier expectations. Likewise, lespedeza made good growth in practically all areas and was harvested under almost ideal conditions with little to no loss in fields. Due to the reduced seeding of the 1948 small grain crops, much of the lespedeza acreage was not a follow crop and had a chance to make maximum growth. Also, due to the rainy season during the fall of 1947 which resulted in heavy loss of hay, growers have taken full advantage of this year's excellent opportunity and harvested maximum supplies. October 1 prospects for the peanut hay crop were variable and production indications were not as good as they had been earlier in the season. Prospects for reasonably good soybean hay yields continued favorable at the time. Cowpea and other hays produced equally as well as other kinds during the year.

On January 1, 1948, with the exception of all cattle and milk cows and hogs and pigs, there were fewer numbers of all species of livestock on North Carolina farms than on the same date in 1947. No apparent change was reflected in the numbers of all cattle and milk cows. The January inventory showed the number of hogs and pigs to be the highest since 1945.

Although all cattle and milk cow numbers showed no change on January 1, 1948, compared with the same date in 1947, both years were considerably below 1946 and 1945. The indication derived from the fact that the 1947 and 1948 inventory number did not change may lend evidence to the probable ending of the downward trend from the high of war years. On January 1, 1948, all cattle totaled 677,000—the same as for January 1, 1947. In 1946 and 1945, there were 691,000 and 751,000 head respectively. Milk cows also reflected the same general trend, with January 1 inventories showing 376,000 for both 1947 and 1948.

The January 1 inventory showed 1,191,000 hogs and pigs on North Carolina farms, comparing with 1,103,000 a year earlier and 1,021,000 in 1946. These yearly inventory numbers reflect an upward trend since 1945.

Sheep and lambs continued to decrease and at only 35,000 on January 1 of this year, reached the lowest level of record.

The total number of chickens on farms in the State as of January 1, 1948, was placed at approximately 10.5 million, or about 13 percent less than was on farms the same date a year earlier. A continuation of the downward trend in the number of chickens on farms remains evident. The above numbers do not include commercial broilers. Turkeys at 50,000 on January 1, 1948, were 6,000 or 11 per cent below the 1947 inventory.

In comparing the January inventory numbers of horses and mules and colts on farms in North Carolina, an even sharper decrease was seen between 1947 and 1948 than during other recent years, although the general downward trend has been noticeable for a good many years. It seems logical to assume that the effects of mechanization is the primary factor causing the general downward trend in the number of work animals on farms.

The United States feed supply situation for the 1948-49 feeding season is about the best in history, according to "The Feed Situation" as approved by the "Outlook and Situation Board" on September 29, 1948. Record corn production this year is primarily responsible for the large feed concentrate supply, which is over one-fifth larger than in 1947-48. The total feed concentrate supply of about 166 million tons is a little smaller than the record supply of 1942-43, but it is the largest on record in relation to the number of livestock expected to be fed. Hay supplies are ample for the fewer livestock on farms. The generally high level of livestock prices of the past year or so is expected to continue, at least through most of the 1948-49 feeding season. With abundant supplies of feed, very favorable livestock-feed price ratios are in prospect for the coming year, which will encourage heavier feeding of the livestock now on farms and some expansion in livestock numbers during 1949.

Unpredictable Sweet Puzzles Breeders

SWEET POTATO production in North Carolina is big business. Over 8,000,000 bushels of sweet potatoes were produced in the State last year. The average farm price received for those that were sold was \$2.15 a bushel. This makes North Carolina one of the leading sweet potato-producing states in the Nation.

On the debit side of the ledger, the average yield per acre has shown only a very slight increase during the past ten years. The amount sold has been far below what it should be. Numerous disease and production problems remain to be solved.

High Mutation Rate

Commercially and for home use, sweet potatoes are propagated asexually or vegetatively, that is, "slips" or "draws" are used for the early planting, and vine cuttings for the late planting. These vegetative parts carry the same inherent characters as the parent variety. However, it is important to examine roots for flesh and skin color before bedding, because the sweet potato has a relatively high mutation rate compared with many other plants.

Mutations often give rise to complaints that sweet potatoes are not uniformly true to variety. Mutations of flesh and skin color can be seen. Since these occur frequently, it may be assumed that mutations take place for other characters, such as yield, which may not be seen so readily. A few of these mutations may be desirable, but the majority have no practical benefit and are mostly undesirable. Hence, it would be a limited and costly method to depend on such means for the improvement of our present sweet potato varieties and the development of new ones.

Produce True Seed

A more effective method for improvement is from true seed. This method affords an opportunity for self-pollination and hybridization between varieties and strains.

It gives a wide segregation of characters and offers a greater opportunity from which desirable ones may be selected. It further permits the recombination of certain desirable characters by the crossing of selected lines or strains.

Flower Production

The sweet potato (*Ipomea batatas* Poir.) belongs to the Convolvulacea or morning-glory family. It is probably a native of tropical America, and under tropical conditions it blooms readily. The flowers resemble those of the common morning glory, varying from almost white to violet in color.

Under North Carolina conditions the sweet potato is a very temperamental plant as far as flower and seed production is concerned. It is a rare occurrence to see flowers produced in the field. Controlled conditions are usually needed to induce the plants to flower. A combination of short days, high light intensity,



and comparatively low temperature is most favorable for flower production and seed setting.

Started in Greenhouse

To provide the proper conditions, the plants are started in the greenhouse about the middle of August. To encourage rapid vine growth, the light, moisture, and nutrient levels are kept comparatively high and the temperature maintained at 75 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. As the vines develop, they are trained on a wire trellis. After they have made sufficient growth, the water, temperature, and nutrient supply is lowered. The light is kept at a maximum, since the length of day is comparatively short during October and November.

Controlled Pollination

Flowers of the sweet potato plant open in the early morning, remain open during the day, and close in the late afternoon of the same day. They are receptive to pollination only during the day they open. Crossing and selfing during the morning hours be-

tween 8 and 11 o'clock has been most successful.

Controlled pollination is done by hand. Where there is a possibility of interference by insects (mainly bees), the flowers must be prepared the afternoon before the day they open. A paper clip or soda straw is placed over the ends of those that will be selfed and those that will be used as male parents. This prevents them from opening until time for pollination. The flowers to be used as female parents must be emasculated, that is, the male parts of the flowers are removed, and the flower covered the afternoon previous to the day they open.

In seven to ten days it is possible to determine the success of the pollination. The seed matures in five to six weeks and may be harvested at the end of that time. The fruit is a relatively small, round pod which may contain from one to four seeds. The mature seed is medium large, angular, and has a hard black, brown, or mottled coat.

Growing Seedlings

Because of the hard seed coat, sweet potato seed sometimes take several months to germinate. To obtain prompt and uniform germination special treatment or scarification is required. This consists of soaking seed in a concentrated solution of sulphuric acid. About 45 minutes of this treatment has proved most successful.

After removing the seed from the acid, they are washed in water and planted in flats. The seedlings emerge in four to six days and may be transplanted to pots or the greenhouse bench in another week. They may be left in the greenhouse long enough to produce vine cuttings or set in the field at an earlier date.

As soon as roots are produced, the desirable plants are selected and saved for further testing. Those that do not contain desirable qualities are discarded.

The overall aims of the Station's breeding program are to obtain higher yields; uniform root size and shape; resistance to diseases such as wilt, field rots, and internal cork; desirable cooking qualities; increase in vitamin content (particularly vitamins A and C); and desirable propagation and storage qualities.

ENOUGH FOR ALL

INERT, inane, innocuous—that's us. This vernal lassitude (oh, well—call it Spring fever) is really something to cope with. Here we are, less than 48 hours from a deadline and too overcome with inertia to compose anything but the most inane drivel, which might not even pass as innocuous. Unless we misjudge our peculiar prophetic powers, what we're about to unleash here may more nearly be termed malodorous.

How the guys and gals, who do this sort of thing for a living, manage to fill column after column day after day is beyond our ken. You'll note we've already ended one sentence with a preposition and some irate editors might even crack down for that. Only promise we'll make to our own irate editor, however, is to split no infinitive. And yet you'll see it done almost every day by some good writer. Wonder if that, too, has become permissible or if it just somehow slips by?

Some medical colleague has but recently dwelled long, soundly and effectively with this problem of Spring fever, attributing it mostly, we believe, to depleted wintertime diets but touching also upon unfavorable psychic influences. And who will gainsay him? About all that can be said in favor of Spring fever is that it might occasionally provide a topic for a bit of blarney, or an excuse to lay aside an unpleasant task, but who can truthfully say there is no such thing? And might not this nefarious misanthrope just possibly exact quite a toll of the national economy?

Now, to the Point

Now we begin to come around to the point. In an issue of *Better Health* devoted to health and agriculture, what better topic to dwell on than nutrition? And wherein can our two forces better unite for the common good of mankind?

In nutrition there are fads, follies and foolish fancies that do a world of harm, but even more serious are the fateful failures that fearfully harm the world.

We may attribute some of our Springtime ills and ails to poor nutrition, and certainly we know that various forms of malnutrition affect considerable segments of our own population even though, in this country, starvation is said to be rare. Granting, then, that our own situation is one of the most favorable in all the world, what a task it is that confronts us!

By M. B. BETHEL, M. D.
City Health Officer
Charlotte, N. C.

As a nation, we are, and ever shall be, our brothers' keepers. We have at times looked pretty silly for our bother, and the feeding hand will yet again be bitten, but there can be no real dissent from the view that we must help where we can and in the most effective way. It matters not so much whether altruism or selfishness is our immediate motive so long as the world is fed.

"Well, now, doc," you drawl, unless you're a non-drawling Yankee, mid-, or far-Westerner, "you've bit off quite a chunk of territory there. Been a heap of talk from Washington lately 'bout a feller named Hoffman that's got himself over five billion dollars to do that very job."

How right you are, and it's very good news, but he'll need some help. Our efforts individually may range from puny to pretty good; collectively, they can become colossal.

Aside from plows, plants, and pottery, fuel, fertilizer or fish nets, and the thousands of other items needed abroad to give war-torn hordes a ghost of a chance, there'll be food aplenty that must be sent immediately from these beloved shores.

To accumulate this wealth there are three things some or all of which each of us can do, to help:

1. Use food intelligently, but don't waste any.
2. Produce more food.
3. Do a day's work every working day.

Sounds simple and fairly sensible, doesn't it? But how very far away we are from achieving these objectives!

Personally speaking, I'm far too inclined to overeat, haven't even set out the urbanite's half-dozen tomato plants, and I often wonder, at the end of the day, whether I've earned my salt, to say nothing of my stipend. But, by Granny, we avoid at our house the cardinal sin of wasting food.

On subjects, related to each numbered item above, you find a book has been written, or maybe even a whole library has been assembled. Chances are that we could all use more information, but the chances are even greater that we're not making the best use of the information we have.

And, I'll lay no plague on either house, but it is the very most devastating criticism of our time that management and labor cannot agree on conditions that impel men for the common good, to do a day's work every day. A devout hill-billy exhorter might lay it all on Satan. Certainly, it is a hell of a note.

Renewed Devotion

At the task before us, our cohorts in Health and Agriculture keep daily. Like chipping away a stone, maybe some day the job will be done, but now is certainly a time for renewed devotion.

Again, personally speaking, I believe the great Rosenau's dream "*of a time when there shall be enough for all, and every man shall bear his share of labor in accordance with his ability, and every man shall possess sufficient for the needs of his body and the demands of health*" is a sentiment that can be subscribed to by everyone.

FREE BOOK

Individual copies of the second edition of "Our Land and Its Care," a 64-page, profusely illustrated publication on "our land and how to keep it productive," may be obtained without cost upon request from the American Plant Food Council, 10 17th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., Clifton A. Woodrum, president of the organization, announced today.

Prepared in collaboration with the Agricultural Education Service of the U.S. Office of Education, the second edition was issued after the demands of county agents, vocational teachers and other agricultural leaders exhausted the first printing of 400,000 copies.

Forty photographs and 28 drawings, charts and tables are used in the publication to illustrate important lessons in land management, conservation and soil productivity.

"Many months of research went into the writing of 'Our Land and Its Care,'" Mr. Woodrum said. "Recognized agricultural leaders and officials were consulted. Simplicity and accuracy were foremost in the authors' minds. The testimonials of farmers, farm leaders, soil scientists and agricultural workers in general attest the value of this simplified text on the complicated subjects of land management, soil conservation and plant food usage."

First mechanical cotton picker in Iredell County was bought this year by Glen Warren, Statesville, Route 1.

PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM DEFENDED

From Agricultural Review

COMPARING the plight of farmers in the period immediately following World War I with their present situation, Commissioner of Agriculture D. S. Coltrane reminded members of the Carteret County Farm Bureau that the farm price-support program has been "a bridge, a bulwark, a support" in preventing similar disasters in this post-war period.

Addressing this organization in Beaufort on September 15, the Commissioner graphically described conditions in the early 'twenties. "Prices began to sway and dip," he said, "then down they came with a thunderous crash. The illusion of agricultural prosperity collapsed, and half a million farmers, within a period of a few years, lost their farms.

"Let me refresh your minds with a few of the actual price figures before and after: Wheat in May, 1920, \$3.14 a bushel; wheat in November, 1921, less than a dollar. Corn in May, 1920, \$2.00 a bushel; corn a year and a half later, 42 cents. Cotton before the crash, 35 to 40 cents a pound; after the crash, 20 cents. Tobacco 40 cents a pound; after the crash, 15 and 20 cents.

"Do you see any similarity in what happened in 1920 and what threatened to happen early this year? On the fifth day of February, 1948, there occurred a big break in the commodities market. For a week and a half prices plunged, and you will recall seeing the headlines of the papers and the editorials asking the question, 'Is this it? Is this the end of boom and the beginning of bust?'

"But in all the furore there was no panic among farmers. I don't have to tell you why. You know why. Something new had been added since 1920. A bridge, a bulwark, a support! As long as that support stands, you who grow cotton, tobacco, peanuts, and other basic crops know that prices of these commodities can fall, but not into a bottomless pit."

The Commissioner explained that the "something new" referred to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, which was the result of a conference called by the Secretary of Agriculture in February, 1937, when farm organization leaders advocated the enactment of legislation to effect a long-time agricultural program; a program based on the principle that the buying power of farmers was of primary importance in the national economy.

"The new Act sought to weave these features into a general farm program," he continued. "1. Soil conservation on a nation-wide scale. 2. Acreage allotments to help stabilize production. 3. Loans to finance farmers to hold larger carryovers in surplus years. 4. Marketing quotas for surplus control of marketing in time of an emergency. 5. Market agreements to avoid market gluts especially of perishable crops and dairy products. 6. Subsidy of consumption for relief purposes for surplus relief buying operations. 7. Diversion of excess supplies to industrial users and for export. 8. Contributions to farm income through the making of parity payments.

"In the spring of 1941 Congress raised the support level on basic commodities for a specific period of time. That summer the so-called 'Stegall Amendment' was enacted. Among other things, this amendment directed the Secretary to extend special price support protection to those non-basic commodities in which wartime production goals called for sharp increases. This special price support protection was required for two full calendar years after the President, by proclamation, declared hostilities of World War II to have ceased. Since President Truman issued this proclamation on December 31, 1946, the expiration date on this program was December 31, 1948.

1948 Agricultural Act

"Several important changes in the farm program were made by the Agricultural Act of 1948 passed during the last session of Congress. The new act amends the parity price formula; changes the definition of carry-over, normal supply; and provides a new price support program.

"These changes will not go into effect until January 1, 1950. In the meantime, the new act extends the existing price support legislation to cover basic commodities harvested before June 30, 1950.

"There is a big fight coming over price supports. It is shaping up now. You can see it in the newspapers, hear it on radios. They blame farmers and the farm program for high prices and inflation. All farm price supports are threatened by public resentment just at the time when they are needed to prevent a general farm collapse. A growing number of groups in this country have become vociferous

about 'the terrible way price supports are keeping up the cost of living.' Day after day, I read some version of that statement in the papers.

"The actual fact is that agricultural price supports are keeping down the cost of living. Not many city people know that fact. Too many have been deliberately misled.

"Take meat for example. The price of beef, of pork, of lamb, of chickens, is not being supported at all, but how many folk know that. How many know the demand for meat is so great that its prices are far above the level at which, according to law, support would have to be applied?

Production Encouraged

"Some folks believe that our agricultural programs are actually keeping down meat production. The fact is that agricultural programs have helped farmers to tremendously increase production. Our population has increased a great deal in the past ten years—the number of farmers has decreased. Yet the average person today is eating 15 per cent more meat than in the prewar period.

"It is this increased production that has kept meat prices from soaring far higher than they now are, and I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that without the bulwark of the price support program behind them the American farmers would not dare to produce as they are producing today.

"The fuss about price supports and the cost of living is due to just two causes. One is failure to understand the real purpose and the tremendous benefits to the Nation of price supports. The other is a deliberate scheme to cover up the real causes of the high cost of living. Let us look at a few facts: First, price supports are currently in effect on only three important foods—eggs, wheat, and potatoes. Government buying has had very little effect upon egg buying and only in some areas.

"Wheat prices in recent months have dropped about one-third, but have you noticed any decline in the price of bread? There has been none. Something other than the price of wheat is keeping up the price of bread.

Insurance for Abundance

"I believe in price supports as insurance for abundance production. I believe in price supports, moreover, because agriculture is the one major industry in which prices are almost

(Continued on Page 15)

Bulletin Is Published On Grade A Dairies

Results of a survey of the experiences of 20 farmers in Haywood and Buncombe counties who have built Grade A dairy barns since 1946 are contained in a new publication just issued by the State College Extension Service.

The circular, entitled "Converting to Grade A Milk Production," was prepared by T. K. Jones, Extension farm management analyst, and H. B. James, in charge, farm management research. It is available free upon request to the local county agent or to the Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh. Ask for Extension Circular No. 324.

Most of the farmers surveyed had built six-stanchion barns using concrete blocks, and most had separate milk and feed rooms. The average total cost for the barns was \$1,293.

Coolers, water heaters, and wash vats are the main items of equipment needed in converting to Grade A production. The cost of the coolers in these 20 cases averaged \$260; water heaters, \$85; and wash vats, \$52.

The authors outline how the farmer can, by careful planning, reduce building costs. He can use his own family labor and exchange labor, but to do this he must do his building during slack seasons. Another short-cut is to select building materials wisely—get such things as rock, sand, gravel, and lumber right off the farm.

An elaborate and showy structure will not increase milk production and therefore should be avoided, the specialists assert. The amount of milk which can be produced economically will largely govern the amount of money the operator can afford to invest in additional barns and equipment. Capital expenditure must be kept in line with size of business, the authors declare.

Farmers in Hertford Buy 28 More Heifers

Twenty-eight heifers were distributed to Hertford County Negro farmers recently as another step to improve dairy cattle herds in the county. The animals were purchased through Melvin L. Johnson, Negro county agent for the State College Extension Service, from the dairy section of Alamance County. They were considered the best shipment of heifers to be delivered in the county since the beginning of the cooperative program in 1943.

Included in the shipment were 19 Jersey heifers and nine Guernseys. Total cost of the cattle was \$3,740, with prices rang-



Carolina Dairy and

ing from \$122 to \$140. Most of the animals are eligible for registration and all of them were graded and appraised by A. C. Kimrey, Extension dairy specialist at State College; J. W. Ballentine, county agent; and L. W. James of Ahoskie, Route 3.

Of particular importance to the future growth of the dairy industry in the county was the fact that 14 of the animals were purchased by farmers who did not own any dairy cattle. Of the other 14, four were placed with farmers who expect to start small dairies, five were purchased by farmers who owned animals of inferior grade, and five were placed with farmers who had good herds.

Preceding delivery of the animals, a short program was held at the C. S. Brown School in Winston.

Veterinarian Issues Warning Against Live Virus Vaccines

A warning against the promiscuous use of live vaccines for immunizing poultry against Newcastle disease is contained in a circular letter distributed to North Carolina chick hatcheries and feed dealers by the Veterinary Division of the State Department of Agriculture.

Dr. L. J. Faulhaber, state veterinarian, says in the letter that this vaccine is a new product still in the experimental stage. While it may offer some definite advantages, he points out that it also has some disadvantages, chiefly the possibility of spreading Newcastle disease from recent vaccinated birds to susceptible birds in the vicinity.

Other disadvantages cited include the statements that eggs of newly vaccinated layers carry the live virus for a period of time, and use of the vaccine sometimes results in a slight mortality in flocks to which it is administered.

"Since the incidence of Newcastle disease in North Carolina is low," the letter states, "we feel that it is not wise or in the best interest of the poultry industry to go into extensive vaccination, but to restrict to actively infected premises, recently infected premises or a few special cases under extenuating circumstances. In such cases permission to vaccinate must be obtained from the Veterinary Division of the State Department of Agriculture. At this time we feel that this product should be used under

the supervision of the Department to avoid the possible spread of the disease to new premises with resultant damage to our poultry industry."

Artificial Breeding Program Is Expanding

The artificial cattle breeding program is making rapid progress in North Carolina, reports J. F. Brown, Extension dairy specialist at State College.

He says there are now 23 organized artificial breeding associations in the State with a total membership in excess of 2,500, and it is estimated that more than 20,000 cows will be bred under the program this year.

Reports show that in January and February 2,258 cows were bred by 21 associations. Two associations began operating in March, and all others except those in Forsyth, Yadkin, and Davie counties began in January.

Despite the fact that most of the technicians are new, reports as of April 1 indicate that the non-return percentage by technicians on January 1 services will average around 44 per cent, which is considered a fairly good figure with so many new men on the job. Reports already indicate improvement in the percentage for February 1 services.

All counties doing artificial breeding have been contacted by one or more Extension dairymen and given detailed assistance with the overall program.

Temporary Grazing Proves Profitable

W. B. Franks, dairy farmer of Raleigh, Route 4, reaped a profitable return from an 18-acre temporary pasture which he seeded last fall, according to J. L. Reitzel, Wake County farm agent for the State College Extension Service.

Mr. Franks seeded 50 pounds of Italian ryegrass and 15 pounds of crimson clover per acre. At the time of seeding he applied 600 pounds per acre of 8-8-8 fertilizer which he mixed on his farm, and this spring he applied about 24 pounds of pure nitrogen per acre.

On March 8 Mr. Franks started grazing the pasture with 63 head of cattle which were then producing 130 gallons of milk each day. Twelve days later the cattle

Livestock Section..



had increased their milk production to 178 gallons per day.

Prior to the grazing the cows were being fed \$32 worth of hay per day. The reduction in cost of hay material and the increase in milk production meant an additional profit of more than \$70 per day, the dairyman reported. At the same time the cattle were getting in better physical condition.

Sheep Are Profitable If Well Managed

Growers who follow good management practices report that sheep are a profitable enterprise for North Carolina farms, according to L. I. Case, in charge of animal husbandry extension at State College.

As an example, he says farm flock records of six Person County farmers show that they averaged a gross income of \$33.33 per ewe this year. Some of them made as high as \$48 per ewe.

However, says Mr. Case, sheep must be properly bred, properly fed, and properly managed the year round if they are to make money for their owners.

Another thing that's important this season—and throughout the year—is keeping sheep free from internal parasites, Mr. Case says. If the flock had access to phenothiazine and salt during the grazing season, the mature sheep will be pretty well taken care of.

About December 1, however, the entire flock should be given individual treatment of some kind. The treatment may be with either phenothiazine or copper sulphate and Black Leaf 40 combined.

Full directions for application are given in Extension Folder No. 61, "The Control of Internal Parasites of Sheep," copies of which are available free from the county agent or from Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh.

Tyrrell Man Grows Pork 'By the Acre'

How many pounds of pork can be produced "per acre?"

A Tyrrell County farmer, R. L. Spruill of Columbia, Route 1, ran a test last summer to find out. And, according to a report by County Agent H. H. Harris of the State College Extension Service, the experiment was highly successful.

Mr. Spruill had a three-acre field of corn which he estimated would yield 66 bushels to the acre. He decided to run a hogging-off demonstration.

On August 1, a total of 27 pigs weighing 2,862 pounds were turned on the field. For 67 days they went about eating all the corn they wanted.

By October 25, the pigs had added 2,688 pounds and weighed a total of 5,550 pounds. Thus Mr. Spruill figures he produced an average of 86 pounds of pork per acre.

At \$1.25 a bushel, the estimated corn yield from the three acres would have brought \$247.50. Mr. Spruill spent \$64.80 for 1200 pounds of supplement and \$3 for 30 pounds of mineral to feed the pigs. In other words, the corn, supplement, and mineral cost \$315.30.

The hogs sold for 25.5 cents a pound. The 2,688 pounds added during the demonstration thus brought a return of \$685.44, and the net profit from the hogging-off was \$370.14.

Mr. Spruill's records show he made \$5.52 a day just by watering and caring for the pigs. And, considering the hogs as harvesters and marketers of corn, he was able to realize a return of \$125.05 per acre above feed cost, in addition to saving the expense of harvesting the corn.

25% of State's Corn Acreage Is Planted in Hybrids

Slow at first in forsaking the familiar open-pollinated corn varieties, North Carolina farmers now are turning in greater numbers to the higher yielding hybrids.

This is indicated in a report prepared by Ray B. Converse, federal crop statistician with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, who said that nearly a fourth of the state's corn acreage this year was planted with hybrid seed, as compared to 14 percent last year and only one-tenth of one percent in 1938.

Estimates based on information received from crop reporters, Converse said, indicate that hybrid seed were used on 560,000 of the 2,333,000 acres of corn planted in North Carolina this year. This was an increase of 85 percent over last year's hybrid corn acreage.

"The first plantings of hybrid corn of any consequence in this state," Converse said, "occurred in 1938 when hybrid seed were used on 2,000 acres. Hybrid acreage

then expanded slowly until 1946, when 121,000 acres were planted, and by 1947 hybrid plantings in the state totaled 302,000 acres out of a total of 2,160,000 acres of corn."

North Carolina, however, still is far behind the national average in the use of hybrid corn, which this year accounts for 75 percent of the nation's total corn acreage. In some of the corn belt states such as Ohio, Illinois and Iowa hybrids now are planted almost exclusively. Their use on a national scale began about 1933, with 143,000 acres planted out of a total corn acreage of 14 million. Ten years later more than half of the nation's corn acreage was devoted to hybrids.

Halifax Farmer Makes Record Yield of Corn

A new record in North Carolina corn production for 1948 was reported this week from the farm of a Halifax County farmer, H. F. Hudson of Enfield.

His yield, according to Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge of agronomy extension at State College and chairman of the State Corn Contest Committee, was approximately 143 bushels of shelled corn on one acre. The exact yield will not be known until the moisture content of the corn has been determined in laboratory tests.

The best previously reported yield this year was 136.24 bushels per acre, made by 77-year-old J. R. Simpson of Union County. The State contest will not be concluded until several more fields have been checked.

Like the Union farmer, Mr. Hudson used the Dixie 17 hybrid variety. After turning under a crop of vetch on the land, Mr. Hudson planted the corn on April 22. Fertilization included 200 pounds of 4-10-6, 200 pounds of 5-5-3, 200 pounds of nitrate of soda, and 200 pounds of sulphate of ammonia.

Cotton was grown on the acre of land in 1946. The yield was one bale. In 1947, the acre produced 15 bags of peanuts.

The weight of the ear corn after shucking was 9.045 pounds, and the shelling percentage was 88.25.

S. E. Wilson of the Farmers Home Administration served as chairman of the committee which harvested Mr. Hudson's corn. Other members of the committee were: S. K. Jackson, American Potash Institute, and H. A. Patten, Production and Marketing Administration, in charge of measuring the land; Henry Maddux, Synthetic Nitrogen Products, and M. W. Shugart, Jr., Soil Conservation Service, in charge of weighing; W. M. Warren, Production and Marketing Administration and Dr. Collins, supervisors at large. Wilson and Patten were also in charge of determining the shelling percentage.

.. The Carolina Homemaker ..

By MISS YORK KIKER, *Home Economist*

The Christmas Story

Read again in the Bible's pages
The old, old story that never ages,
A tale that never has lost its thrill
Of tender splendor — and never will.

Where is a story lovelier, stranger?
A baby born in a stable manger
To fill the earth and the skies above
With the power and glory of infinite love.

Beauty, adventure, and peace unfold
In a story fashioned with words of gold
To lift and magic the hearts of men,
— Read the story again — again!

The Christmas Story
Luke 2: 4-20

* * *

The holiday season is the one time each year to go "all out" for desserts and goodies. It's a spree the family and friends eagerly anticipate.

Looking for an idea? Here are a few specials you will surely want to try.

SNOWBALL SUNDAE

Roll balls of chocolate ice cream quickly in finely shredded coconut. Serve with a chocolate sauce spooned over each snowball just as it goes to the table.

FRUIT CAKE BALLS

Form bits of moist fruit cake into balls $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Roll in confectioners' sugar. Serve with coffee for dessert—or serve as cookies.

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE PUFFS

1 cup water
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
1 cup sifted enriched flour
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
4 eggs
3 cups chocolate filling
Crushed peppermint candy
Whipped cream

Combined water, butter, and salt in saucepan and bring to boil. Sift together flour, sugar, and cocoa. Add flour mixture to boiling water and cook, stirring constantly until mixture is thick enough to leave sides of pan and clings to spoon. Add unbeaten eggs, one at a time, beating until smooth after each addition. Drop by teaspoonfuls on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake in hot oven (450 degrees) and continue baking 25 minutes more. When cool, fill with Chocolate Filling and top with whipped cream and crushed peppermint candy.

CHOCOLATE FILLING

2 squares chocolate
 $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups milk
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
6 tablespoons enriched flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
1 egg, beaten
2 teaspoons butter
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla extract

Put chocolate and milk in top of double boiler and heat. When chocolate is melted, beat with egg beater until blended. Combine sugar, flour, and salt and add gradually to milk mixture. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly, then continue cooking 10 minutes longer, stirring occasionally. Pour small amount of mixture over beaten egg, stirring rapidly. Stir into filling in top of double boiler and cook 2 minutes longer stirring constantly. Add butter and vanilla and cool. Makes 3 cups filling: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for each puff.

CHOCOLATE BON BOMBS

Beat together in top of double boiler, 2 egg yolks and 1 cup milk. Mix together and add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sifted flour and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar; then 2 teaspoons butter.

Cook over boiling water until thick enough to hold its shape, stirring constantly. Blend in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. melted semisweet chocolate. Chill several hours. Drop by teaspoonfuls (about size of a large marble) into finely chopped nuts, coconut, or chocolate shavings, and roll around to cover completely. Chill again for easier handling when eating. Makes about 2 dozen pieces.

EASY FUDGE

Melt over hot water, one 7-oz. pkg. chopped semisweet chocolate or chocolate pieces (about 1 cup). Stir until smooth. Add $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sweetened condensed milk ($\frac{1}{2}$ can). Cook 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cup chopped nuts.

Pour into greased 6x10 in. shallow pan. Cool before placing in the refrigerator to chill. When firm, cut into squares. Makes about 2 dozen $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. squares.

*The success of this recipe is dependent on the use of sweetened condensed milk (not plain evaporated). The other half can of milk may be used in making the Uncooked Fondant (below).

UNCOOKED FONDANT

Measure into bowl $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sweetened condensed milk ($\frac{1}{2}$ can). Add slowly $4\frac{1}{2}$ cups sifted confectioners' sugar. Blend well; add 1 teaspoon vanilla and 1 teaspoon almond extract.

Knead until smooth and creamy. Cover tightly with a damp cloth, and store 24 hours in refrigerator. Divide in half.

*The success of this recipe is dependent on the use of sweetened condensed milk (not plain evaporated).

Fruit Variation . . . To $\frac{1}{2}$ fondant add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, each finely chopped nuts, cut-up candied cherries and candied pineapple, additional confectioners' sugar . . . enough to make it easy to handle, if fruits are syrupy. Blend by kneading with fingers. Make into 2 rolls about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. Slice as desired, and chill until ready for use. Makes 2 rolls . . . 32 pieces ($\frac{3}{4}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.)

Coconut Variation . . . Roll remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ fondant into a roll. Dip roll in well beaten egg white, then in tinted coconut. Slice and chill. Makes 1 roll . . . 16 pieces . . . ($\frac{3}{4}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.)

Candy Plate Touches . . . Arrange candies on dainty colorful plates in keeping with the holiday. Wrap a few pieces in colored cellophane, others in aluminum foil paper for a bright note. Round colored party mints may be made especially festive with a tiny icing flower placed on each, using a pastry tube and tinted icing.

To Color Sugar . . . Place a drop or two of liquid food coloring in bowl. Add granulated sugar gradually, rubbing with wooden spoon to blend color in thoroughly . . . until desired color. Use for popcorn balls, for Christmas cookie toppings, etc.

*CHRISTMAS ANGEL FOOD DESSERT

Cut 9-in. cake crosswise through center to make 2 layers and put together with a filling $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped fruits and nuts (maraschino cherries, pineapple, almonds, pecans, etc.) folded into $\frac{1}{2}$ cup heavy cream, whipped. Ice with $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups heavy cream, whipped. Arrange wreath of green coconut (soak $\frac{1}{2}$ cup coconut in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk to which a few drops green coloring have been added; drain and dry on absorbent paper). Cut candied cherries to look like berries and decorate the wreath.

Ice Cream in Chocolate Cup . . . Melt over hot water 1 pkg. semi-sweet chocolate pieces. Using 6 small fluted paper baking cups, brush the insides thickly with the melted chocolate. Use a pastry brush. Carefully chill 3 or 4 hours. When chocolate is set, carefully peel off the paper cups . . . you will have chocolate cups in the same pattern. Fill with a

dipper of ice cream or sherbert and serve at once.

THUMBPRINT COOKIES

Prepare $\frac{3}{4}$ cup finely chopped nuts. Mix together thoroughly $\frac{1}{4}$ cup soft shortening, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup soft butter, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar (packed in cup), 1 egg yolk, and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla. Sift together and stir in 1 cup sifted flour and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt. Roll in balls, size of a small walnut. Beat slightly with fork 1 egg white. Dip balls in egg white. Roll in the finely chopped nuts.

Place about 1-in. apart on greased baking sheet. Bake 5 minutes in quick moderate oven (375 degrees). Remove from oven. Immediately press thumb gently in top of each cookie. Return to oven and continue baking about 8 minutes longer. Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

Note: To add an extra decorative effect . . . when cookies are cool, place in indentations a bit of chopped candied fruit, bright jelly, or flavored confectioners' sugar icing. Icing may be tinted, if desired.

HOLIDAY FRUIT COOKIES

Prepare $\frac{3}{4}$ cup broken pecans and 36 to 42 pecan halves. Mix together thoroughly $\frac{1}{2}$ cup soft shortening, 1 cup brown sugar (packed in cup), and 1 egg. Stir in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup thick sour milk. Sift together and stir in $1\frac{3}{4}$ cups sifted flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon soda, and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt. Stir in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup broken pecans, 1 cup candied cherries, cut in halves, and 1 cup cut-up dates.

Drop by teaspoonfuls (using a heaping teaspoon for each cookie) about 2-in. apart on greased baking sheet. Place a pecan half on each cookie. Bake 10 to 13 minutes (just until golden brown and "set") in moderately hot oven (400 degrees). Cookies should be soft when taken from the oven. Makes about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen cookies (2-in. in diameter).

Note: Additional fruit and nuts may be used if desired. Other kinds of fruit and nuts may be substituted, such as raisins, citron, or candied pineapple, filberts or almonds.

FESTIVE COFFEE ROLLS

Crumble and dissolve in cake compressed yeast in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup lukewarm milk. Add 1 tablespoon sugar, and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups Bisquick (until dough is easy to handle).

Mix very well. Turn dough over on floured surface to lightly coat with flour. Knead until smooth (about $\frac{1}{2}$ minute or 20 times).

Note: This dough may be refrigerated overnight. Roll dough into oblong 8x12 in. Spread with 1 tablespoon melted butter and sprinkle with a mixture of 1 tablespoon sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup raisins or currants, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped candied fruit (citron and cherries).

Roll up, beginning at narrow side. Seal well by pinching edge of dough into roll.

Cut into 1-in. slices. Place cut side up in 8-in. greased baking dish. Let rise at 85 degrees until double in bulk . . . about 45 minutes. Bake about 25 minutes in hot oven (425 degrees). Five minutes before removing from oven, brush tops of rolls with a mixture of 1 tablespoons corn syrup and 1 teaspoon cornstarch. Makes 8 rolls.

*If raw milk is used, it should be scalded and cooled to lukewarm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Gala Holiday Dessert

Nothing tops off a gala Christmas or New Year's dinner better than a traditional plum pudding. Here's a recipe for one that will be a family favorite right down the line, from Grandpa to Junior. It's delicious, nutritious, and just chock full of apples, raisins and currants. Best of all, your Mixmaster takes all the mixing off your hands and assures you a smooth, even textured pudding.

Ingredients: 1 cup chopped suet, 1 cup,

chopped raw apple, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups seedless raisins, 1 cup dried currants, 1 cup molasses, 1 cup cold water, 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon allspice.

Method: Combine suet, apple, raisins and currants, molasses, and water in large bowl. Beat at No. 1 speed until blended. Sift together flour, salt, soda, and spices. Add to fruit mixture a small amount at a time, mixing at No. 3 speed. Fill greased pudding molds two-thirds full. Cover tightly. Steam for three hours. Serve hot with lemon or hard sauce. Serves 10.

Note: Decorate with maraschino cherries cut as flowers and citron cut as leaves.

A proposed Federal marketing order for potatoes grown in North Carolina and Virginia was favored in a recent referendum by growers producing 78.5 per cent of the volume of potatoes grown in the area.



Old-Fashioned Plum Pudding with Plenty of Apples, Raisins and Currants

Reports From Our Nation's Capital

Continued from Page 5)

and its predecessor, the Wagner Act. Well, independent of what national industries or trade union bosses and new members of Congress may think, the fact is that labor strikes are one of the underlying causes for inflation.

And it also seems perfectly reasonable to expect that differences between employers and wage earners should be adjusted in the future—by leaving out strikes. The scheme to combine “one-fourth of the Taft-Hartley with three-fourths of the Wagner Act” is a childish scheme that may very well be ditched. Why? Under the old Wagner Act, President Roosevelt took the law in his own hands and set up commissions, arbitrators, and other hand-picked politicians to “win” the strikes—the way they were told to by the President of the United States.

President Truman has brought the Taft-Hartley Act into the open. He vetoed it twice, and Democrats joined Republicans in passing it over those vetoes.

John L. Lewis was an outstanding figure in proving that the Courts of the land are to be trusted in interpreting the Taft-Hartley Act. The decisions of Judge Goldsborough received the approval and the applause of the American people.

Incidentally, while this correspondent is “neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet,” he has said in this correspondence to publications in all parts of the nation that wasteful strikes should cease to be considered as a political issue. When the question is debated and argued forwards and backwards, one reaches the indisputable belief that most workers who go out on unjustified strikes wind up by losing more of their annual income than they get in increased wages.

And, please remember that President Truman went before Congress at the time of the railroad strike two years ago to ask the right to draft striking railway workers into the Army under wartime power. He had his fighting clothes on that day. Actually, he has little excuse to oppose anti-strike legislation, particularly since Democrats joined Republicans in defeating his vetoes of the Taft-Hartley Law.

Any Congressman who is not familiar with the Wagner Act and the Taft-Hartley Act, and the way these laws have been kicked around and denied backing by the White House, ought to resign his place in the councils of the nation. This may be rather

a rash statement, but I don't know how an honest reporter can fail to stand firm in the belief that definite and necessary laws for the benefit of all people must include the relations between employers and workers. If we can't clean up that mess at home, we are not apt to succeed in our efforts to make the world safe for humanity.

Mail Order Insurance

How we do move! Insurance firms have been rounding up the new policyholders by soliciting Tom, Dick and Harry and his in-laws down through the centuries. Considerably less than a half-century ago the Postal Life Insurance Company broke down the bars and opened headquarters in New York from which it solicited the public to apply by mail to that company for life insurance.

The postal plan has multiplied. The Federal Trade Commission in Washington has scheduled a trade practice conference in December for the mail order insurance industry.

Federal Trade says that the insurance industry is consisted of persons, firms, corporations, associations and organizations engaged in promoting the sale of insurance by mail, which means: without personal solicitation by licensed agents of the insurance company. The conference will be concerned with the various types of insurance coverage, including life, health, accident and liability policies.

The trade practice conference seems to have been arranged in the interests of top insurance companies, led by Postal Life. It is a good idea to put the stamp of approval on mail order insurance, which many of us believe will bring great savings to policyholders.

What a Notion!

The Commission for Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government will recommend reforms to Congress calculated to save taxpayers billions of dollars. Despite the fact that the Hoover Commission is a bipartisan group, it evidently has performed the impossible by evolving a report that recommends the removal of postmasterships from politics. Instead of calling on the Senate to confirm thousands of postmasters in first, second and third class post offices, these officials will be appointed locally through the merit system. That's a grand idea and you can bet your last summer's straw hat that the plan will not get the okay of political Senators who have fed out those jobs through all the years.

The Hoover Report shows that during the last three years there has been a turnover of 6,000,000 persons on the Federal payroll. Mr. Hoover says that a reform of the post office system would bring about a savings in operational costs of two hundred million to three hundred million dollars a year.

It's awfully nice of Mr. Hoover to tell the government how to save so much money. But: if you want to know how the government is not going to save money you had better check up on Mr. Truman's plan of “Billions for the new-New Deal” as it is explained in this correspondence.

If They Behave

An authoritative news statement from Washington says that the new Congress is better. Its members, on average, are older, better educated, more liberal, more broadly experienced than the Congress President Truman said was “the worst.” There are more farmers, business men, and more veterans in the new Congress than in the other. But after all, you may expect all these wise statesmen to do just about what Mr. Harry Truman orders. Everybody knows that Truman whipped the Republicans, but there is a lingering suspicion in Washington that he reformed the Democrats. They all will be looking for their slice of political patronage from the White House. And if they behave they will get it.

Looking Through Your Bi-Focals

The Federal Trade Commission has passed an opinion on the important subject of bi-focal optical lenses. It seems that a firm out in Ohio claims that it has something new and better in bi-focals—and the Federal Trade Commission says it has nothing of the sort. This Ohio Univis Corporation says that the user of bi-focals with round top reading segments must tilt his head and otherwise assume an unnatural position in order to use the lenses to advantage. Federal Trade says “tain't so” and that all bi-focal lenses are based on the same general principle.

U. S. Production

Gross national production has been bobbing upwards too fast. The annual rate of \$256,000,000,000 in the third quarter of this year is an increase of nearly \$6,000,000,000 over the preceding quarter. That's official!

The rest of the government report shows that old Uncle Sam is almost inflated to the “bursting point.” Guess we'll have to turn that over to President Truman and the new Democratic Congress to explain. It really is too tough for normal human beings.

Price Support Program

(Continued from Page 9)

completely out of the hands of the producers. When industry produces a car, a ton of steel, a cultivator, or a piano, it figures its costs and its costs plus profits are the selling price on the tag. When the farmer produces a crop, the price tag is written in the commodities market. He takes it or leaves it and if he leaves it, the crop may spoil. Of course, he can never afford to leave it unless he has a loan program.

"Without price supports, the basis of farm prosperity would be comparatively shaky. We might very well, at this moment, be reliving the collapse of 1920 and '21 with its bankruptcy of farmers and business people, with its unemployment, with its social unrest. What do you think would have happened to tobacco prices last year if we had not had a support program? You know just as well as I that tobacco would have sold for 20 or 25 cents per pound which would have resulted in bankruptcy to many of you and to many businesses in this State.

"Critics who blame price supports for inflation are ignoring the real culprit, expanded purchasing power in relation to the supply of consumable goods. Those who believe that inflation can be alleviated by lowering supports to the farmers are barking up the wrong tree. The only real and lasting cure for inflation lies in expanded production. The prices of many desirable foods will inevitably fall as a result of the bumper crops, which are being produced this year.

"Those who say that farm prices will merely remain static need to be reminded that corn sold in the heart of the corn belt to feeders for \$2.30 a bushel to \$2.50 a bushel two months ago, and that last week, No. 2 Yellow Corn for October the 15th delivery in Chicago could be purchased for \$1.48. Other indications of declining food costs have been a drop in wheat prices from a postwar high of \$3.13 per bushel to a current level of \$2.12 per bushel.

"There is no one who has a more important job than the farmer. Eighty per cent of the people in this country do not produce food, which means that 20 per cent have become efficient enough to produce food for all the folks in this country plus some to ship abroad. If something should happen to our agricultural economy so that the 20 per cent could not continue to produce this food, it is easy to visualize what a serious blow it would be to the national economy and the standard of living of our Nation."

THE CAROLINA FARMER

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WITHIN EASY REACH OF ALL THE FAMILY



CONVENIENCE IN THE KITCHEN

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED

ONE IN A MILLION

Take William J. Pace, of Alamance County, N. C. As a modern farmer he is what you might call typical.

He has spent a lifetime on the farm and that, like owning a tractor and being handy with his hands, is sort of typical, too. Even the farm he owns and lives on slips into the pattern. You could lay his 250 acres down in Ohio, California or New Jersey and, except for the hewn-log houses where he cures his bright leaf tobacco, you would hardly know the difference. His house and every line of his rolling fields and pasture lands, with their fringes of woods, would fit right in. They are all that typical.

William Pace, typical American farmer, is really one in a million. In fact, he is the millionth, for the telephone installed in his farm home on December 16 was the 1,000,000th added by the Bell System in rural areas since the end of the war.

Mr. Pace is proud of his new telephone. And there again he is pretty typical. It is a bit more than thirteen miles from his place into town, a good piece to drive for every little thing you need or want, and he can think of a hundred times in the past when a telephone would have saved a trip.

Watching the telephone people construct the new line to his home made Mr. Pace, who was born almost within a stone's throw of the house he lives in now, think of the other changes he has seen within a life span spent on a farm—the good roads that have come, the automobiles, trucks and tractors, and the advent of electricity that brought lights and refrigeration and radio to his home.

Governor-Elect W. Kerr Scott of North Carolina, who with other regional and state leaders was at the Pace home on December 16 to take part in ceremonies attending the installation of the telephone, also thought of the changes the past few decades have brought to the farm. Himself a farmer and a dairyman—his farm is in the same section of North Carolina—he told of an incident of his childhood.

"There was a night when the bells rang all night long. There was an important election to provide decent school facilities, in which all of the country people were much interested. There was no means of quick communication and so the people arranged, if the election went favorably, to ring their farm bells. And all through the night the bells rang, carrying the wordless message along."

The telephone people were as proud of the new telephone as William Pace. In 1945, planning for the resumption of a program of rural telephone expansion and development interrupted by the war, they had announced that they expected to add a million new telephones to their facili-



NUMBER ONE MILLION!—The one millionth rural telephone to be added by the Bell System since World War II was placed in service this month on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Pace in Alamance County, N. C. Mr. Pace is shown at center receiving the instrument from Ray F. Hewitt, Southern Bell installer, as Mrs. Pace smiles approval.

ties serving rural areas as rapidly as possible after men and materials became available again. They figured it might take as long as five years to do the job, but the elapsed time worked out to be just a little over three years.

Accomplishment of the Bell System's initial objective of 1,000,000 additional rural telephones required pioneer thinking and planning and a whale of a lot of plain hard work. New telephones have been installed in rural areas three times faster than ever before. About a million and a quarter poles were placed and half a million miles of wire strung, enough to wrap around the world a score of times. Almost everywhere the Bell Companies had to add to their central office switchboards and in many places construct new buildings to provide additional facilities for both rural and urban customers.

Faster and more economical construction methods developed by telephone experts helped speed the work and place it on a commercially feasible basis. Poles were set farther apart, thanks to a new and stronger wire, and better tools sped the lineman's job.

The net result is that, with William Pace's new telephone, there are 65 per cent more Bell telephones serving rural areas than on V-J Day—and 45 per cent of the nation's farms now have telephone service.

The ceremonies which marked the installation of the millionth rural telephone added since the war were informal. Besides North Carolina's Governor-Elect Scott, others present included U. S. Senator J. Melville Broughton, of North Carolina; Hal S. Dumas, president of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, the company that installed the

telephone; Harvey Booth, Southern Bell's Carolinas manager and some hundred others interested in communications and rural progress.

When the telephone was installed, Mr. Pace talked with President Truman in Washington. North Carolina's Senator J. Melville Broughton placed the first call to the White House and, after greeting the President, turned the line over to Mr. Pace.

Willie Pace had not quite expected that but he took it in stride. Later Mr. Pace talked to Leroy A. Wilson, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in New York, and calls were placed to Governor Gregg Cherry in Raleigh and to others.

Altogether it was a big day on the Pace farm, one that Willie Pace and his family will long remember. Willie Pace lives close to that land of his and no small part of the pleasure for him came that afternoon, after the barbecue that capped the celebration, when he showed the visitors around his place.

Mr. Pace doesn't farm all of his land himself. There are two tenants on the place and the three of them plan and work out their operations. It is good tobacco land and some fifteen acres of the weed each year gives them their main source of cash money. Irish and sweet potatoes, corn—he is partial to hybrid corn and gets a good though not sensational yield of 75 to 80 bushels an acre—and winter crops of small grains, wheat, oats and barley, cover their activities. Each year, however, there are three or four acres in garden truck, part of which Mr. Pace sells to merchants in Burlington; and milk of four cows beyond his family's need gives him a steady source of income.

Growing in Wisdom and Stature Through School Lunch Experiences

By THELMA G. FLANAGAN

The Sunshine School has been organized as "The State of Happiness." Classrooms are named, "Friendlyville," "Workville," "Healthville," "Contentville," etc. The cafeteria is the "Filling Station." A sign shows the price of "Gas" (lunch), "Oil" (milk). At noon a member of the "sanitary committee" in each town gives each child a paper towel as he goes to the washroom before reporting to the "Filling Station." Weekly town meetings are held in each town. There the children freely discuss behavior problems and plan for more effective use of the school day, including school lunch integration activities.

Such programs do not just happen. Maximum benefits take place only in the school where there are teachers with vision and where there are adequate school lunch programs.

As county workshops have provided in-service training for teachers and school lunch personnel, both groups have begun to think of the educational values of the school lunch program. Teachers have asked for help in integrating their classroom teaching with the school lunch program. The outgrowth of this demand has been the writing of a bulletin tentatively entitled "Growing in Wisdom and Stature through School Lunch Experiences."

How can classroom teaching spill over into school lunch department? Is our school lunch department doing all that it can for our school and our community or are we still "missing the boat" when it comes to maximum benefits? What type of teaching makes Johnny want to learn about food? These questions and many more are answered in this bulletin. The relatively new field—that of school lunch integration is covered in detail. School lunch is now coming out of the basement and is taking its place as a laboratory for teaching. "Teaching what?" might be asked. The school lunch is the everyday living type of teaching where children see that their school practices what it preaches! In the school lunch department children learn about nutrition. Here habits are formed which will guide the child all of his life.

The bulletin also treats the effect of emotional upsets on eating. Children and teachers alike must enjoy eating in the school lunch dining room.

Another section of the bulletin shows teachers how to help the little Marys and Johnnys spiritually, aesthetically, and socially become finer adults. Children learn about citizenship while they stand in line and while they help to keep the

dining room tidy by carrying their used trays to be washed. Here is also ample opportunity for artistic development. The bulletin suggests activities whereby our children may learn in the classroom about the Florida foods eaten in the school lunch departments. This type of study leads to a discussion of what foods are grown in each community. How many fathers are in the foods industry? What do they do?

Mathematics comes in for its share of the limelight, too. Using the records and reports necessary in order to present a practical problem, this type of study forms a springboard for problems such as: the amount of money designated for the lunches, family budgets, etc. Other new and exciting aspects of the school lunch program are also treated such as: learning to eat around the world, around the calendar with school lunch and the relationship of school lunch to vocational guidance, art and music.

The first draft of the bulletin is completed. Copies will not be available for distribution until early winter. Much ground work still needs to be done but we hope that eventually every boy and every girl who has access to a school lunch department may indeed, grow in wisdom and stature through their experiences there.

State Seeks To Protect Thriving Poultry Industry

Armed with two new regulatory measures, the veterinary division of the State Department of Agriculture is determined to protect North Carolina's thriving poultry industry against infectious diseases which have caused heavy losses in many other states.

Both measures were adopted at a recent meeting of the State Board of Agri-

culture after Dr. L. M. Greene, a member of the department's veterinary staff, pointed out weaknesses in existing regulations. He said the state could not afford through lax control measures to jeopardize an industry which in 1946 brought an income of more than 70 million dollars to its farmers.

One of the new regulations is aimed primarily at preventing the promiscuous use of live virus inoculants by inexperienced persons in the treatment of Newcastle disease, a new poultry malady of a highly contagious nature. There have been some instances of Newcastle disease in North Carolina, but it is far more prevalent in some other states, Dr. Greene said.

Uncontrolled use of live virus in inoculating against Newcastle, he added, could easily result in spreading the disease rather than controlling it. At Dr. Greene's suggestion the Board adopted a regulation requiring permission in writing from the state veterinarian, Dr. L. J. Faulhaber, before live virus or bacteria inoculants capable of producing disease in animals or poultry are shipped into or distributed within the state.

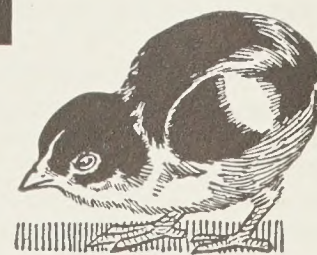
The other regulation adopted by the board clarifies an earlier control measure known as "Regulation No. 11, Avian Tuberculosis Regulation." It forbids importation into the state of poultry for breeding purposes unless they come from pullorum clean flocks and flocks that have been negative to the tuberculin test within six months prior to shipment. Individual birds imported for breeding purposes are required to have passed pullorum and tuberculin tests within 30 days prior to entry and to be apparently free from other infectious diseases.

Another provision of this regulation requires that "exhibition birds returned to North Carolina shall be accompanied by a certificate issued by the show veterinarian and approved by the State Live-stock authorities of the state holding the show, certifying that the birds are apparently healthy and that no disease outbreak occurred at the show." Isolation of such birds for 30 days before being returned to the home flock is also required.

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**GREENSBORO
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ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

Net Weight When Packed Is Illegal in State

It is illegal to merchandise commodities in North Carolina on the basis of "net weight when packed," according to C. D. Baucom, superintendent of the Weight and Measures Division of the State Department of Agriculture.

Baucom's statement was prompted by the discovery that a Raleigh market was selling hams which an inspector found to be one to four ounces short of the figures marked on the wrappers as "net weight when packed." On the inspector's orders, the hams were removed from sale until they had been reweighed and properly marked.

Baucom cited a state law providing that "whenever a commodity is sold on a basis of weight, it shall be unlawful to employ any other weight in such sale than the net weight of the commodity."

The term "net weight," he added, means the weight of the commodity itself, exclusive of any wrapping or binding, crating or container.

At present meat prices, the weights and measures superintendent said, a short weight of a few ounces is of real significance to the average consumer.

Telephone Request Seems Reasonable

Anyway you look at it, the request of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company for increased subscriber rates looks like a justifiable application on which favorable action would be a good thing for North Carolina, including her rural areas.

Adequately functioning telephone service is important to the State. With cost of doing business having gone up so greatly, and the telephone rates having been raised so relatively little, it's easy to understand why the company needs additional revenue in order to give good service.

It's particularly vital right now that rates be effective which will enable the telephone company investors to have a fair return on their investment. Southern Bell is in the midst of a tremendous postwar service improvement and expansion program, and has been making fine progress in face of huge telephone demands in this growing State.

To continue this program, much new telephone equipment is still required. Just like a farmer must make an investment

in a new plow or a tractor or a tobacco planter, somebody must make an investment in the telephone poles and switchboards and other apparatus which must be at hand before telephone service can be rendered, let alone enlarged. The money for this equipment must be obtained from the investing public which really means business men, women, farm folks and others who have money they are willing to invest. These people, just as you or I, will continue to furnish capital funds only if reasonable earnings are obtained on their investment.

That's all the telephone folks ask—reasonable earnings. The telephone business is not a high profit business. Earnings at the present are not adequate to assure this new capital needed. We say—let the subscriber rates be raised sufficiently for the earnings to be realized, and the company to be in position to continue furnishing good service to its present customers and extend its service in the cities and town and rural countryside. It's wholesome that it be that way.

Warehouses Needed for Cotton Loan Program

Unless more warehouses apply to the Commodity Credit Corporation for approval under the 1948 cotton loan program, a shortage of approved storage space threatens to hamper the program in North Carolina counties, says G. T. Scott, State director of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Of the 93 warehouses in 40 counties which are licensed for cotton storage, only 23 in 18 counties have obtained CCC approval for handling cotton placed under loan, Mr. Scott said. He added that county Agricultural Conservation committees are contacting owners of unapproved warehouses and urging them to submit applications for approval.

The PMA director said counties which have at least one approved warehouse at the present time are Anson, Bertie, Catawba, Cleveland, Cumberland, Franklin, Halifax, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Rowan, Scotland, Vance, Wake, and Wayne.

The 1948 loan rates in North Carolina, based on 15/16 inch middling, gross weight, white and extra white grades, are 31.44 cents per pound in all counties west of Granville, Wake, Harnett, Hoke and Scotland, and 31.37 cents per pound in all counties east of Person, Durham, Chatham, Lee, Moore, and Richmond. These figures are based on 92.5 per cent

of parity as of August 1.

Cotton to be eligible for a loan must be classed by a board of cotton examiners of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This year a special form of loan agreement is available to cooperative marketing associations which make loans to producer-members.

N. C. Experiment Station Releases New Quarterly

The latest issue of Research and Farming quarterly publication of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, was announced this week by Dr. J. H. Hilton, director of the Station.

The new quarterly features articles on milk marketing, small grains and packing of frozen meats, Dr. Hilton said. The abundance of pictures and the easy-to-read style makes the publication of interest to the average farmer. Copies will be sent free to all who request them.

In his article on packing frozen meats, Dr. D. E. Brady demonstrates the value of wrapping frozen meats with foil rather than plain kraft papers. A series of three pictures show the improved appearance of foil-wrapped meats. Another series of pictures demonstrates the steps in the druggist's wrap.

A chart on the farm living level in Eastern North Carolina shows that eight out of every ten farm homes now have a radio. Seven out of ten have sewing machines, and six out of ten have automobiles. Dr. C. H. Hamilton, author of this article, tells of other improvements that have been made recently in farm homes.

One of the pictures in the new publication may be mistaken for that of a morning glory. But Daniel T. Pope, horticulturist at the Station and author of the accompanying article, explains that the picture is of a sweet potato flower. The sweet potato is a member of the morning glory family, he says. Anyone desiring to receive Research and Farming regularly should write to the Agricultural Editor, State College Station and ask to have his name placed on the mailing list.

A succulent feed for a dairy cow is one with a high water content. Good examples are: pasture, silage, and soiling crops. Such feeds furnish a cheap source of feed nutrients and because of their succulence tend to keep the digestive system in good order. It is important that one be included in the ration throughout the year.



ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACKS

There are three million and seven hundred thousand people living in North Carolina. If you want to make them mad just stop them from being armchair quarterbacks. The individual's right to express his own opinion and to determine his own action, within the limits of decency, is a proud Tar Heelia heritage.

Listen in on any gathering of friends and you will see what we mean by "armchair quarterbacks." Their conversation probably will include football. Ah, how different the scores would have been if only the "armchair quarterbacks" had called the signals. But it's all in wholesome fun and part of North Carolina life.

Or, by chance, the discussion may get around to how the participating counties and communities should best spend their share of the more than \$7,000,000 collected each year in taxes on beer by the state of North Carolina. Some favor using these funds to keep local taxes at a minimum. Others favor spending the beer tax funds for improved schools, better health facilities and more adequate police and fire protection.

But it makes no difference what the topic. North Carolinians uphold the individual's right to express openly his own opinion and to determine his own action, within the limits of decency. Let's keep it that way.

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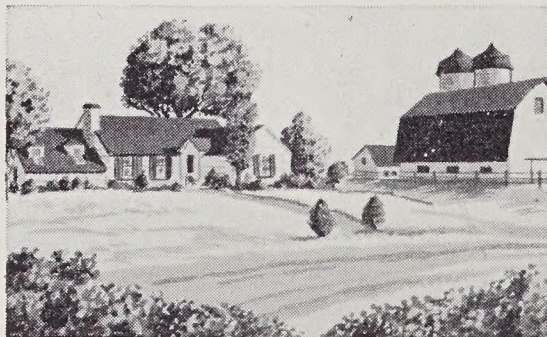


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